

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 9-15, 18 and 38-40 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 38-40 being independent. Claims 31 and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 38-40 have been amended herein. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification regarding the discussion of Fig. 14C, for example, beginning at page 42. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to this preferred embodiment.

Claims 1-5, 9-15, 18, 31, 33 and 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,048,117 (Banton) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,256,107 (Toda). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 1 and 38-40 recites, inter alia, searching a plurality of image output apparatuses, obtaining a state of each image output apparatus, displaying the plurality of searched image output apparatuses and a state of each searched image output apparatus, inputting user instructions or receiving an input according to the displayed states for selecting an image output apparatus, for which calibration is performed, from the displayed plurality of image output apparatuses, and displaying an output status of a predetermined test pattern of the selected image output apparatus.

With the present invention, in calibration a predetermined test pattern outputted by an image output apparatus must be read by an image reading unit. Therefore,

a user must retrieve the outputted test pattern from the image output apparatus from which it was output. It is important that the user check an output status of the predetermined test pattern of the selected image output apparatus.

Banton relates to a network-based system for color calibration of printers.

As discussed previously, to calibrate a printing device, the device or user initiates calibration by requesting the device generate an electronic test pattern, which includes a plurality of color patches in response to an input color pattern. Identification coded data is generated for the test pattern and includes data representing properties of a desired calibration output print.

As recognized by the Examiner, Banton does not search a plurality of image output apparatuses, obtain a state of each image output apparatus, and display a plurality of searched image output apparatuses and a state of each searched image output apparatus and input user instructions for selecting an image output apparatus. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Banton also does not disclose or suggest displaying an output status of a predetermined test pattern of the selected image output apparatus, as is also recited in each independent claim.

Thus, Banton fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Toda relates to an image forming system including interconnected and priority allocated image forming devices, such as digital copying machines. One copy machine is used to search among others for those whose processing functions match conditions and priorities regarding image processing, post processing, size of paper, and

functions set by an operator. That is, as understood by Applicants, Toda is directed to an apparatus for executing distributed printing and, in order to perform distributed printing, a printer from among a plurality of printers connected to a network is selected based on a search condition. While Toda may obtain a status of a printer upon such searching, there is no disclosure or suggestion of displaying an output status of a predetermined test pattern of a selected image output apparatus. Thus, Toda fails to remedy the deficiencies of Banton noted above with respect to the independent claims.


Thus, independent Claims 1 and 38-40 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 38-40. Dependent Claims 2-5, 9-15 and 18 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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